2020 Vegetable Chemical Use Survey

Project Code 136
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Vegetable Chemical Use Survey – Purpose

• The Water Quality Initiative mandated the development of a comprehensive database describing the nature of agricultural chemical use in the United States.

• NASS data used to build a database for USDA’s Pesticide Data Program (PDP).

• FQPA Requires EPA to conduct review of tolerance levels for re-registration of pesticides.
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey – Purpose

• Accurate and timely information on actual usage can be used in the decision making process for product registration, re-registration and product alternatives.

• Only the grower can provide these data. If these data are not available, EPA assumes maximum label rates were applied on all crop acreage resulting in an over count of the true amount of pesticides being used. NASS survey results typically show that producers are using far less than maximum recommended label rates allowed.
Benefit to Farm

- Farmers benefit from NASS chemical use data indirectly
- Serious consequences if re-registration of certain pesticides are not allowed
- Growers have a chance to tell how they use chemicals responsibly
- Survey results establish facts about chemical use, lessen concerns
- Timely information can be used in decision making for product re-registration
- Used by extension advisors, extension scientists in writing reports, consultants, farm businesses, and in farm magazines or newspapers.
Resources Provided To You
(Between your packets and the website)

• Labeled Paper Questionnaires (targets and partners labeled) for VCUS
• Comment Sheets
• Respondent Booklets
  – A master list of chemical codes will be provided online
• Pesticide Supplements
• Consent Forms (if you need to get permission from a pesticide applicator to get spray records)
• Acreage Insert
Resources Provided To You
(Between your packets and the website)

• Pre-Survey Letters and Backgrounder (color brochure)
• Extra Blank Questionnaires
• Assignment Listings
• Bubble Sheets
• Interviewer’s Manual
• Practice Exercise
Face Page and Screening

• Front Page, Introductions – Make sure to enter IC004 in military time.

• Page 2, Change in Operating Status – Make sure we are collecting data from the correct person.
  – Operators were prescreened in May, June, or July.

• Substitution is allowed.
  – Substitution is valid if the new operator can report all chemicals for the 2020 calendar year and managed this operation separate from an existing operation.
  – Substitution is not valid if the new operator incorporated the land into an existing operation or cannot report all chemicals applied during the growing season.
Face Page and Screening

• The primary name on the label can be an individual, partnership, or operation name.

• The operation must be the same as the name on the label without any major name changes.
Face Page and Screening

- Page 3, Screening – Verify if the operator has the target crops.
  - Did operation have any target crops
    - Ohio: Bell Peppers, pumpkins
    - Michigan: Asparagus, snap beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash
    - Indiana: Pumpkins, Watermelons
  - Day-to-day decisions
  - Other partners if in a partnership
Face Page & Screening

- Practice your introduction
- Interview operator or designated person
- Start of interview = beginning time (military)
- Verify name & address
  - Update label with changes
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey Screening

• If any operation was in business during part of the crop year, but went out of business during the year, complete a questionnaire for the part of the year during which the operation did business.

• Landlords should be excluded from this survey.
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey Screening

• The bottom line is we are trying to get a complete survey, for the entire year, for the operation on the label.

• If the operation has changed hands and you’re not sure if substitution is appropriate, contact the Regional Field Office.

• “When in doubt, fill it out.”
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey Screening

• There will be labels for partners we know about. Verify that the printed information is correct.

• If a partner is no longer involved, draw an ‘\(\times\)’ on the label. A note as to why is helpful: deceased, retired, etc.

• Information for new partners in an operation should be written neatly and completely.